

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
HPPE Surfactant Spill - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #2
Final POLREP
HPPE Surfactant Spill

Columbus, GA
Latitude: 32.5106330 Longitude: -84.8713000

To: James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPB
John Johnson, FLDEP

From: Carter Williamson, OSC
Date: 5/29/2019
Reporting Period: 05/18/2019 - 05/26/2019

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	C494	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category: Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	5/11/2019	Start Date: 5/11/2019
Demob Date:	5/12/2019	Completion Date: 5/26/2019
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:		State Notification: Yes (GAEPD was present)
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

High Performance Product Engineering (HPPE) in Columbus, Georgia produces a surfactant, Clean Surf 92, which has been used as an ingredient in drilling fluid for oil and gas exploration. During operations at the plant on May 11, a release occurred at the facility which migrated off-site to Bull Creek and impacted aquatic life.

1.1.2.1 Location

6906 Dixie Street, Columbus, GA (Muscogee County)

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Release of surfactant and unknown constituents into water body impacting aquatic life and possibly threatening clean water intakes downstream of the facility.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

OSC Williamson mobilized to the site and met with Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) responder Angel White, company representatives, emergency response contractors, and local City of Columbus Stormwater personnel to oversee removal operations as a result of a release of material that impacted Bull Creek resulting in a fish kill extending two miles downstream from the facility. A downstream trace analysis was conducted, and there are no water intakes 30 miles downstream from the spill. The EPA issued a Notice of Federal Interest (NOFI) and requested access to the facility. Together EPA and GAEPD directed site operations and tactical elements to improve recovery operations, containment and storage of recovered material. It could not be determined how the material was originally transferred from the totes, or above-ground storage tanks (AST) staged on-site nor could EPA and GAEPD accurately and with confidence determine the actual compound that was released. The OSC deployed EPA's Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) assets to conduct a sampling event. Federal and state RCRA staff conducted a joint investigation at the facility the week of May 14, 2019 and validated data and comparison tables were forwarded to GAEPD and to the EPA Land, Asbestos and Lead Section, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division for follow-up. Sample analysis information was also provided to the facility and to an environmental contractor who will be overseeing removal of liquid waste and soils impacted who will then submit a remediation plan to EPA and GAEPD for approval. GAEPD will take the lead in overseeing future removal actions and containment operations at H.P.P.E.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

OSC Williamson mobilized to the Site and met with GAEPD responder Angel White, company representatives, emergency response contractors, and local Columbus Storm Water personnel to oversee removal operations as a result of a release of material that impacted Bull Creek.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

A downstream trace analysis was conducted, and there are no water intakes 30 miles downstream from the spill. The EPA issued a NOFI and requested an access agreement. Together EPA and GAEPD directed site operations and tactical elements to improve recovery operations, containment and storage of recovered material. It could not be determined how the material was originally transferred away from the totes or ASTs staged on-site nor could EPA, and GAEPD accurately and with confidence determine the actual compound that was released. START contractor assets were deployed to conduct a sampling survey. Media interest was non-existent. Federal and state RCRA inspection personnel conducted inspections at the facility to document the chemical storage and practices employed by HPPE. Sample analysis was forwarded to HPPE, EPA and state RCRA personnel and to the Columbus authorities for further action.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

H.P.P.E personnel

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
surfactant	water	1000 gallons			

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Conduct combined EPA/GAEPD oversight of soil removal, waste disposal, and review of analytical results. Perform the final oversight of remediation actions and containment improvements at the HPPE facility.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Conduct combined EPA/GAEPD oversight of soil removal, waste disposal, and review of analytical results. Perform the final oversight of remediation actions and containment improvements at the HPPE facility.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

The EPA and GAEPD RCRA oversight of HPPE efforts to address facility storage of waste and product material and coordination with Columbus authorities to address any remaining issues.

2.2.2 Issues

Impact of the released material to aquatic species in Bull Creek, remediation of plant site to prevent future releases and coordination with state and local officials to confirm the appropriate remediation efforts by the RP.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	50.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	60.00%
Total Site Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$15,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$8,000.00	53.33%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

GAEPD, City of Columbus

4. Personnel On Site

OSC Carter Williamson
GAEPD Angel White
Sanket Gandhi, HPPE
Jim Frentheway, HPPE
Mickey Edwards, HPPE
Thomas Lee, City of Columbus
Logan Kilgore, City of Columbus
Cody Meshes, City of Columbus
tetra Tech - Eric Huss and Amanda Dones

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.